

Message Notes: “Over and Above”

Summer at Grow
“Over and Above”

Intro:

Declaration: Today, I will hear the voice of God through the Word of God. My eyes will be enlightened, and I will be changed.

There is not enough human energy to produce fulfillment.

- My approach brought me some success, but it didn't bring fulfillment.
- True fulfillment comes from God, not our efforts.
 - My efforts bought a car, my efforts bought a house, my efforts brought promotion, but they didn't bring fulfillment.

I was saved, yet unfulfilled. I felt like there was a lid on my life. There was something keeping me from true fulfillment.

- **Disclaimer:** This has nothing to do with His love for you. When you accept Jesus, you're saved. You're going to heaven. Done. But, if you want an over and above life on earth, there are some principles to follow.
 - Salvation includes healing, freedom, abundance, favor, blessing, satisfactions, etc. But, if you don't know how to apply the principles of the Word, you'll be saved without the benefits.
- **Salvation produces fulfillment in heaven. Obedience produces fulfillment on earth.**

I want to talk to you today on the topic of “Over and Above.”

- If I could do one thing today, I'd want you to leave this place with an over and above perspective.

We all want to live an “over and above” type of life...to find true fulfillment. There are some ways to do that:

1. Time in the Bible.
2. Build relationships and serve the community.
3. And, honor God with your treasure.



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If we want all that God has for us, we need to apply all that God says to us.

Acts 20:35 NKJV - ...‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’

- First principle of an over and above life: More blessed to give than to receive.
- **Giving leads to a more blessed life.**

Matthew 6:21 AMP - for where your treasure is, there your heart [your wishes, your desires; that on which your life centers] will be also.

- **God wants your heart, so He setup a way to get it.**
 - o Giving is part of our spiritual maturity. It's the way to find fulfillment. It's the over and above life.

Money is talked about more than any other topic in the Bible. Why? It's connected to your heart.

There's a story early in the Bible that sets us up to understand how to live an over and above life. **It's the story of Cain and Abel.**

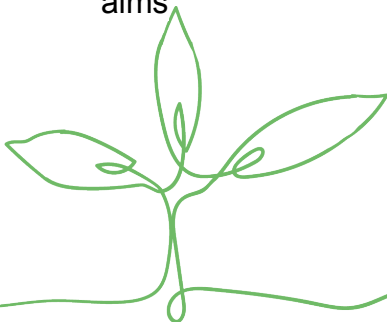
Genesis 4:3-5 AMP - And in the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground. ⁴ But Abel brought [an offering of] the [finest] firstborn of his flock and the fat portions. And the Lord had respect (regard) for Abel and for his offering; ⁵ but for Cain and his offering He had no respect.

- **Example with fruit on stage**
- **Man was designed to give the first and best to God before the law called for it.**

Genesis 8:22 NIV - “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

- Humans figured this out early: **If we don't plant, we can't produce.**
- This is a kingdom concept. **If you're not planting, you're hindering your crop of fulfillment.**

So, let me describe 3 types of giving in the scriptures: tithe (first fruits), offering, and alms



Tithe (First Fruits)

- **Tithe Definition:** one tenth of annual earnings or produce.
 - A tithe from a business deal that you closed would be one tenth of your income from the deal.
 - **Gross or Net?**

Let me show you some examples from the scriptures:

- **Genesis 14:18-20**, shows us two figures, **Melchizedek and Abraham**.
Melchizedek is the “priest of God Most High.” Abraham returns from a big win in battle, and it says in **Genesis 14:20 NKJV** – ...he gave him a tithe of all.
 - This is approximately 400 years prior to the law that was written.
 - Abraham gives to God through the priest. This is how it was always setup. **If we want to give directly to God, we give through the priesthood or local church.**
- **Genesis 28:22 NKJV** - ...this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.
 - This is Jacob prior to the law.
 - Jacob gives a tenth to God’s house (the Old Testament local church).
 - **There is something in the heart of man that needs to give directly to God to live over and above.**
- Abel, Abraham and Jacob. All examples of giving the first fruit (directly to God or God’s house) prior to the law.



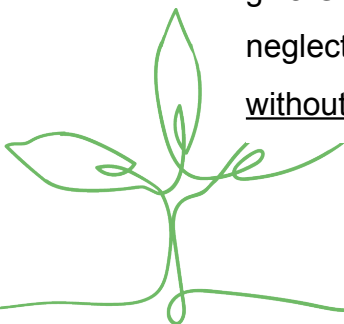
The Law arrives:

Leviticus 27:30 NKJV - And all the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land *or* of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord.

- **The tithe is the Lord's. The first 10% is not ours to start with.**

New Testament tithe:

- **Matthew 5:17 ESV** - Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
 - o The law was fulfilled by Jesus. You don't need the law when you have Jesus. That's true.
 - o Through Jesus, we are better equipped to do right. **The grace of Jesus doesn't lower the standard, it elevates it:**
 - Law says don't kill, Jesus says go to your brother and find a way to forgive.
 - Law says don't commit adultery, Jesus says don't even look lustfully.
 - o **The grace of Jesus allows us to elevate our standard, not diminish it.**
 - Many people think the standard got easier in the NT, but it didn't. It elevated.
 - **He gave us the Holy Spirit to help**, so you have a leg up on the OT believers. You are now empowered to do right.
- **Galatians 3:19 NKJV** - What purpose then *does* the law *serve*? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made...
 - o The law was intended to help people stop **transgressing**.
 - o Not tithing was a transgression.
- **Luke 11:42 NIV (also, Matthew 23:23)** - Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.



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- o The tithe was not undone in the New Testament. Let's not leave the former undone.
- o **In the New Testament it's a love, not a law, of tithing.**
 - Because Jesus did so much for us.
 - It's back to pre-law. It's back to love. It's back to thanksgiving for who He is to us.
- **Hebrews 7:8 NKJV** - Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he *receives them*, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.
 - o **When you tithe, the first tenth, God receives them directly.**
- **Malachi 3:9-11 NKJV** - You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, *Even* this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will not be room* enough to receive it. "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes...
 - o This is a reiteration of what we already read in scripture. **The tithe was intended to go to the priests, the storehouse, God's house, your local church.**
 - Abel, Abraham, Jacob, through the Law, into the New Testament of Grace.
 - o **If we want our things protected, they have to be in God's control (at the storehouse).**
 - I'm going to give my tithe to someone in need. Ok. But, it's not called a tithe then. It's actually called an offering.
 - o **Tithing is "returning" not giving.** It's all His, He's just asking for a return to make sure that He has your heart.
 - o **Example of tithe with fruit on stage**
 - It's going to rebuke the devourer...so you don't have to protect it, God does.



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We can't "tithe" anywhere except the local church, or it's considered an offering.

Let's look at the 2nd portion called offering:

- **2 Corinthians 9:7-8 NIV** - You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.
 - **Our over and above life is tied to our over and above giving.**
 - This is where generosity kicks in. It's not "generous" to tithe. It's generous to give offerings. Remember, tithe is a returning of what is God's as to not rob Him.
 - **Example of fruit on stage for offering.**
- **Malachi 3:8 NIV** - "Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! "But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' "You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me.
 - **We can't have the full gospel, unless we do the full gospel.**
 - **Examples:**
 - We were giving, God was protecting.
 - **Example on stage with tithe full, and offering started. Protects the rest.**

The 3rd portion is called alms:

- **Acts 10:31 NKJV** - your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God.
 - **Alms:** Distributing money or food to the poor – it shows up in the difficult to read KJV of the Bible.



Many people get excited about offering and alms and have been doing them their whole lives. It's awesome! Unfortunately, the devourer hasn't been rebuked because they're not tithers.

- **Example of robbing from tithe and putting in offering/alm's section.**

Personal Examples:

- Debt Free Church
- Home Purchased at Land Value
- Previous Home Sale at peak of market
- Previous business sale a couple of months prior to covid.
- A deal that was supposed to fall apart, but it just got CO.

The devourer is rebuked!

We don't give to get, but when we give, God promises to bless.

The over and above life doesn't start with your giving. It actually starts with your receiving what God gave.

Salvation

John 3:16 NIV - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Rededication

